

THE VIEW OF STOCKHOLM IN THE REGIONS

CONCLUSIONS:

- The local government financial equalisation system needs fundamental reform. The current system is imbalanced.
- Make it easier to commute. More money should be allocated to all types of infrastructure projects.
- Ownership rights need to be strengthened nation-wide for tenant-owners and owners of forestry holdings.
- Power needs to be decentralised away from government agencies and towards local government in areas such as construction.

SUMMARY

AND CONCLUSIONS

Urbanisation is a positive global trend that increases welfare and boosts innovation. The downside is a growing divide in values and outlook in many Western nations. Sweden is also subject to an increasing divide between urban and rural areas. We're working on a number of measures to narrow this divide. This report is based on a survey of a nationally representative sample of the population, excluding the inhabitants of the County of Stockholm.

Respondents answered questions about their view of Stockholm, their own region and the interplay between urban and rural areas.

Stockholm has a mixed image. On the one hand, nearly one third of respondents can see themselves living in Stockholm. On the other hand, a number of negative views also emerge, such as Stockholm being a stressful, overcrowded place with a housing shortage and inadequate infrastructure. Stockholm residents are seen as having a poor understanding of what it's like to live in other parts of Sweden.

The respondents' image of their own regions varies considerably. This is partly due to where in the country the respondents are based, and partly on their own specific situation, view of the economy and society as a whole.

Individual views come even more to the fore when answering questions about the interplay between urban and rural areas. The survey clearly shows that respondents with a positive view of their region also take a more positive view of the interplay and mutual dependence between urban and rural areas.

Nevertheless, the survey reveals a number of problems that ought to be taken seriously. Many respondents felt that the conflict between urban and rural areas is increasing. However, this is something that can be addressed. The respondents largely take a constructive view of the divide between urban and rural areas. They also believe that it can be bridged, and that infrastructure, a well-functioning housing market and basic nationwide public services are part of the solution.